



September 23, 2003

ADVISORY OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE PORT PUGET SOUND, SEATTLE, WA

SITUATION: Recently in the Pacific Northwest, we have experienced multiple cases of crewmembers absconding from foreign commercial vessels into the United States. The Coast Guard and other federal authorities are extremely interested in any information about crewmembers that have absconded or reports of possible future absconders. Not only do absconders pose a potential security threat, they also could have implications with respect to the continued safe operation of the vessel they have left.

As Owners/Operators and Shipping Agents, you likely will be the first to hear about absconders or possible absconder activity from your vessels or the vessels you are representing. It is imperative that this information is provided as quickly as possible to enable the appropriate authorities to take the necessary security and safety actions.

DIRECTIONS: In addition to notifying the United States Customs & Border Protection agency, it is requested that you report any absconder activity to the United States Coast Guard immediately at the following 24-hour number:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection 24-Hour Operations Center: (800) 973-2867

Marine Safety Office Puget Sound 24-Hour Watch: (206)-217-6230 or (206)-217-6002.

If you have any questions please contact LCDR Tom Miller at (206) 217-6231.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ellis".

D. ELLIS

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard

Captain of the Port, Puget Sound

Copy: VTS Puget Sound
CCGD13 (cc), (m), (mhls), (o), (ole)
Commanding Officer, MSO/Group Portland, OR
CG GRU Seattle
CG GRU Port Angeles
Puget Sound Pilots
Marine Exchange
Tofino Traffic
Victoria Traffic
Regional Marine Information Center (RMIC)